

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 03093 221042Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3093

EXDIS

DEPT PASS DOD/ISA

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: BPRO
SUBJ: HUGHES INTEREST IN CO-PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT

1. ASHRAF MARWAN TEPLPNONED ME YESTERDAY TO SAY THAT GEN GAMASY HAD ADVISED HIM THAT THE "CHAIRMAN" OF THE HUGHES CORP., ACCOMPANIED BY SOME OF HIS ENGINEERS, PLANS VISIT CAIRO "IN THE NEAR FUTURE." HUGHES' PRPOSAL, ACCORDING TO MARWAN, IS TO DISCUSS WITH ARAB ORGANIZATION FOR INDUSTRY (AOI) THE POSSIBILITY OF CO-PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR TOW MISSILES AND FOR HELICOPTERS. MARWAN WANTED TO KNOW IF THERE IS ANY PROSPECT FOR ANY SUCH CO-PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS RECEIVING USG APPROVAL.

2. I TOLD HIM THAT I COULD NOT GIVE HIM A DEFINITE ANSWER TO HIS QUERY. AS HE KNEW, PRES CARTER HAS ENUNCIATED A NEW ARMS POLICY, WHICH IS NOW BEING FORMULATED IN MORE DETAIL. I ASSUMED THAT MILITARY CO-PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS ABROAD WOULD ALSO BE COVERED BY THE NEW POLICY. LICENSING FOR THE EXPORT OF THE REQUISITE TECHNOLOGY WOULD CERTAINLY BE REQUIRED. I COULD NOT GIVE HIM ANY GUARANTEE THAT THE RESPONSE WOULD BE POSITIVE.

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3. MARWAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE PROPOSED CO-PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS WOULD NOT BE FOR EGYPT, BUT IN BEHALF OF ALL OF THE ARAB PARTICIPANTS IN AOI. HE WONDERED IF THIS MADE ANY DIFFERENCE. I TOLD HIM THAT, IN MY JUDGMENT, THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS APPLY.

4. MARWAN SAID HE HAD GUESSED AS MUCH, BUT WOULD IN ANY CASE

AGREE TO THE VISIT OF THE HUGHES TEAM IN ORDER TO CONDUCT
SOME EXPLORATORY TALKS.
EILTS

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